

17 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Intelligence Division, NPIC
THROUGH: Chief, Information Processing Division, NPIC
SUBJECT: Comparator Error Analysis Program

25X1 1. A meeting was held in TID/TAB to discuss whether or not
25X1 [] FORTRAN program should be used in place of IPD's
finished program. In attendance were []

[] IPD/PRB. The discussion brought
out the main differences between the two programs.

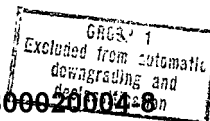
25X1 a. [] math model takes into account the film
shrinkage of the control plate copy. IPD's model did not
take this into account because no requirement was ever
levied upon the project.

25X1 b. [] program output formats do not conform
with the user's wishes.

25X1 2. A careful review and study of the FORTRAN program shows
that with a small amount of additional programming, the features
in [] model can be built into IPD's version. This step
has several advantages because IPD's program is fully documented
(i.e., user's manual, operations manual, and program documentation)
and much more sophisticated in its error detection and analysis.
It would take longer to fully document [] model, revise
the error detection and output than it would to upgrade IPD's
version.

3. It is my recommendation that IPD's version be upgraded
because of the existence of a much more complete problem defini-
tion and documentation.

NGA review(s) completed.



SUBJECT: Comparator Error Analysis Program

25X1 4. The entire difficulty on this project could have been completely avoided if the project monitor fulfilled his role and maintained full awareness of the program and needs of the user. In this case the project monitor, [redacted] of P&DS, was completely out of the picture. Also, it was found that the go-ahead for the programming effort by [redacted] did not originate from anyone in the Agency. This points up a very sensitive and potentially dangerous problem. The programming effort on [redacted] part did not come to light until several weeks after it had occurred. Even at this time no attempt by the user was made to quickly adjust to this unilateral decision. Because of the vagueness and indecisiveness, many critical man-hours were wasted on both sides.

5. It is strongly recommended that all TID computer needs be sent to IPD for full coordination and monitoring. The difficulty in this case was somewhat minor, but as stated before it points up a very potential problem area, and unless positive steps are taken much time and money can be wasted. I feel, therefore, that the recommendation stated above has considerable merit.

[redacted]
Chief, Programming Branch, IPD

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee
1 - Asst for P&D
2 - IPD/PRB